

ROBERT MENENDEZ
NEW JERSEY

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BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN
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FINANCE
FOREIGN RELATIONS

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3005

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11TH FLOOR
NEWARK, NJ 07102
(973) 645-3030

208 WHITE HORSE PIKE
SUITE 18-19
BARRINGTON, NJ 08007
(856) 757-5353

March 18, 2020

Mr. Lothar Thielen
President & CEO Region North America
Drager, Inc.
3135 Quarry Road
Telford, PA 18969

Dear Mr. Thielen:

As the COVID-19 pandemic spreads, it is essential to ensure our nation's public health system has the necessary supply of ventilators to absorb a surge in patients requiring them for treatment.

With more than 4,000 confirmed cases in the United States, COVID-19 is a growing public health crisis that requires urgent action from every industry to combat.

Across the world, a sizable number of those suffering from COVID-19 have required ventilators as part of their treatment for the virus. It is essential our healthcare system has a large enough supply of ventilators to treat all future patients who require them.

According to a recent estimate from Johns Hopkins, there are approximately 160,000 ventilators in the United States ready to be utilized and approximately 8,900 in reserve.¹

At a hearing at the House of Representatives last week, Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, stated, "I believe that if we have a major outbreak, we are definitely vulnerable to shortages."

As we work to address this public health crisis, we must make certain healthcare providers have access to all equipment they need to treat patients. A shortage of ventilators would lead to catastrophic health outcomes.

Working in partnership, the federal government and industry leaders like your company will need to develop a strategy to meet the anticipated demand for ventilators so that patients will have the necessary life-saving care needed confront COVID-19.

¹ <http://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/resources/COVID-19/200214-VentilatorAvailability-factsheet.pdf>

Your company is a leader in supplying our health system with ventilators. The urgency of our current situation will require a significant increase in quantity. Working together, we can prevent the tragic outcomes that would result from the system being overwhelmed.

I am seeking your response to the following questions:

1. What communication has your company had with the Trump administration on the need to increase the number of ventilators?
2. What steps has your company taken to manufacture new ventilators?
3. What is the timeframe to produce and deliver fully operational ventilators?
4. What is the maximum output your company can produce when called upon?
5. Does your company have the resources necessary to increase production if called upon to do so?
6. What steps can Congress take to help increase the volume and the efficiency of production?

I thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Robert Menendez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "R" and "M".

ROBERT MENENDEZ

United States Senator

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March 18, 2020

Mr. Chris Kiple
Chief Executive Officer
Ventec Life Systems
22002 26th Ave SE
Bothell, WA 98021

Dear Mr. Kiple:

As you are aware, it is essential to ensure our nation's public health system has the necessary supply of ventilators to absorb a surge in patients requiring them for treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic.

With more than 4,000 confirmed cases in the United States, COVID-19 is a growing public health crisis that requires urgent action from every industry to combat.

Across the world, a sizable number of those suffering from COVID-19 have required ventilators as part of their treatment for the virus. It is essential our healthcare system has a large enough supply of ventilators to treat all future patients who require them. This must be a top priority of the federal government in dealing with the pandemic.

According to a recent estimate from Johns Hopkins, there are approximately 160,000 ventilators in the United States ready to be utilized and approximately 8,900 in reserve.¹

At a hearing at the House of Representatives last week, Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, stated, "I believe that if we have a major outbreak, we are definitely vulnerable to shortages."

As we work to address this public health crisis, the government must make certain healthcare providers have access to all equipment they need to treat patients. A shortage of ventilators would lead to catastrophic health outcomes.

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Working in partnership, the federal government must collaborate with industry leaders like your company to develop a strategy to meet the anticipated demand for ventilators so that patients will have the necessary life-saving care needed confront COVID-19.

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4. What steps can Congress take to help increase the volume and the efficiency of production?

I thank you for your leadership on this important matter.

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March 18, 2020

Joel Williams
Senior Vice President & General Manager, Americas Region
Smiths Medical
6000 Nathan Lane North
Minneapolis, MN 55442

Dear Mr. Williams:

As the COVID-19 pandemic spreads, it is essential to ensure our nation's public health system has the necessary supply of ventilators to absorb a surge in patients requiring them for treatment.

With more than 4,000 confirmed cases in the United States, COVID-19 is a growing public health crisis that requires urgent action from every industry to combat.

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March 18, 2020

Michael Farrell
CEO
ResMed
9001 Spectrum Center Blvd
San Diego, CA

Dear Mr. Farrell:

As the COVID-19 pandemic spreads, it is essential to ensure our nation's public health system has the necessary supply of ventilators to absorb a surge in patients requiring them for treatment.

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March 18, 2020

Mr. Vitor Rocha
Chief Executive Officer
Philips North America LLC
222 Jacobs St 3rd Fl
Cambridge, MA, 02141-2289

Dear Mr. Rocha:

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March 18, 2020

Mr. Omar Ishrak
Chairman and CEO
Medtronic
710 Medtronic Parkway
Minneapolis, MN 55432-5604

Dear Mr. Ishrak:

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March 18, 2020

Bob Hamilton
CEO
Hamilton Medical Inc
4655 Aircenter Circle
Reno, NV 89502

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

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March 18, 2020

Mr. Kieran Murphy
President & CEO
GE Healthcare
3000 N Grandview Blvd
Waukesha, WI 53188

Dear Mr. Murphy:

As the COVID-19 pandemic spreads, it is essential to ensure our nation's public health system has the necessary supply of ventilators to absorb a surge in patients requiring them for treatment.

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